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IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)

In re: Philippe Douaire et al.
International Appl. No.: PCT/FR99/01489
International Filing Date: June 22, 1999
For: INGESTIBLE ELEMENTS

Attn: DO/US

December 21, 2000

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

1. An element suitable for being ingested, comprising at least one air-passing channel [(3)] making it possible to avoid choking in the event of being swallowed the wrong way.
2. An element according to claim 1, wherein the channel [(3)] is cylindrical or substantially cylindrical.
3. An element according to claim 2, wherein the channel [(3)] has a diameter lying in the range 0.5 mm to 6 mm [, preferably in the range 1 mm to 4 mm, and more preferably in the range 2 mm to 3 mm].
4. An element according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein said element is a medicine for taking orally.
6. An element according to claim 4 [or 5], wherein said element is a coated tablet.